
Descriptive Summary

Title: Edward C. Barrett Collection on Early Caltech History,

Date (inclusive): 1891-1950

Collection number: 10036-MS

Creator: Barrett, Edward C. 1880-1952

Extent: 1 linear foot

Repository: California Institute of Technology. Caltech Archives
Pasadena, California 91125

Abstract: Edward Cecil "Ned" Barrett was for many years the only business officer of the California Institute of Technology and of its forerunner institution, Throop University/Polytechnic Institute. The collection contains historical and administrative documents relating to the early years of Caltech and Throop, as well as correspondence of Caltech's founders and early leaders, including A. A. Noyes, James A. B. Scherer, Arthur Fleming, George Ellery Hale, and Robert A. Millikan.

Physical location: Archives, California Institute of Technology.

Language of Material:

Languages represented in the collection:

English

Access

The collection is open for research. Researchers must apply in writing for access.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Edward C. Barrett Collection on Early Caltech History, 10036-MS, Caltech Archives, California Institute of Technology.

Acquisition Information

The Edward C. Barrett collection was preserved in the Caltech president's office until 1967, when the material was transferred to the Millikan Library. In 1968 the papers were turned over to the newly created Institute Archives.

Biography

Edward Cecil "Ned" Barrett was born March 20, 1880, in Springfield, Massachusetts. As a boy, he moved with his family to Iowa, where he attended the University of Iowa, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1906. In 1911 he began his long tenure at Caltech--then still Throop Polytechnic--as business agent and secretary to the Board of Trustees. He became assistant treasurer to the Board in 1912 and was appointed lecturer in business law in 1914. He was secretary of the Executive Council during the whole period of that body's existence under the leadership of Robert A. Millikan, from 1921 to 1945. In 1934 Barrett was named comptroller of the Institute.

Barrett died in Pasadena on February 23, 1952.

Scope and Content

The Barrett collection was revisited in 2007, at which time it was decided not to disturb the original arrangement of the papers, which dates back to circa 1970. Despite Barrett's long tenure at Caltech--41 years--the collection is small. There are three short series. The first contains an assortment of files pertaining to the business matters of the Institute, as well as some notes by Barrett himself about the history of Caltech, which he planned to write. The second series consists of correspondence pertaining to the founders and early leaders of Caltech, namely George Ellery Hale, Arthur Amos Noyes, Robert A. Millikan, Arthur Fleming, Henry M. Robinson, James A. B. Scherer, and a number of early trustees, donors, and faculty members. There is overlap between the two series, in that correspondence is interfiled among administrative papers in the first series. The third series represents a small miscellany pertaining to the history, governance, and early

finances of Caltech.

The collection is organized into the following series:

- Series 1. Historical and Administrative Papers
- Series 2. Correspondence
- Series 3. Miscellaneous Papers

Related Material

Related collections in the Caltech Archives with important material on the early history of Caltech are: the James A. B. Scherer Papers, the George Ellery Hale Papers, and the Robert A. Millikan Papers.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

California Institute of Technology--History

Series 1. Historical and Administrative Papers

- Box 1, Folder 1 **Writings and notes on the history of Caltech undated**
Physical Description: 127 pages.
- Box 1, Folder 2 **Writings and notes on the history of Caltech: Notes on J. A. B. Scherer correspondence undated**
Physical Description: 83 pages.
Note
Includes some shorthand notes.
- Box 1, Folder 2.1 **Throop University: Articles of incorporation 19 Sep 1891**
Physical Description: Three copies.
- Box 1, Folder 3 **Throop Polytechnic Institute: Subscription papers 1894-1898, undated**
Physical Description: 26 items.
- Box 1, Folder 4 **Throop Polytechnic Institute: Subscription papers 1908-1910, undated**
Physical Description: 6 items.
- Box 1, Folder 5 **Throop Polytechnic Institute: Financial records 1908-1920**
Physical Description: 28 items.
- Box 1, Folder 6 **Administrative documents, folder 1**
Scope and Content Note
- Resolutions of Executive Committee 1904
 - James A. B. Scherer to Wallace Buttrick 1909
 - Arthur H. Fleming to Board of Trustees, Throop Polytechnic Institute 1909
 - Edward C. Barrett to James A. B. Scherer 1914-1915
 - C. J. Willett to Edward C. Barrett 1915
 - Cornell University undated
 - Harvard University to Edward C. Barrett 1916
 - Stanford University to Edward C. Barrett 1916
 - Columbia University to Edward C. Barrett 1916
 - University of California, Berkeley, to Edward C. Barrett 1916
 - Arthur A. Noyes to Edward C. Barrett 1916
 - Norman Bridge to Edward C. Barrett 1916
 - George S. Patton to Edward C. Barrett 1916
 - Finance Committee 1917
 - Board of Trustees 1917, ca. 1920
 - T. W. Haymond to Edward C. Barrett 1917
 - Faculty Tea 1918
 - Edward C. Barrett to Arthur H. Fleming 1919

Box 1, Folder 7

Administrative documents, folder 2

Scope and Content Note

- Plan for the Development of Throop College into the California Institute of Science and Engineering 1920
- James A. B. Scherer to Arthur H. Fleming 1920
- Faculty Administrative Committee 1920-1921
- Report of the Administrative Committee of the Faculty 1921
- Report of Direction, Aims, Accomplishments, Needs and Financial Condition 1923
- Report of the Committee on Student Health 1923
- Report: Robert A. Millikan to Board of Trustees 1923
- William Lacey to Frederic Hinrichs 1923
- Executive Council 1924
- V. Kalichevsky and B. Golikoff to James A. B. Scherer 1924
- Report: Robert A. Millikan 1924
- Pledge: Arthur H. Fleming and Henry M. Robinson 1925, 1927-1929
- Board of Trustees minutes 1926
- H. W. O'Melveny to Edward C. Barrett 1926
- Henry M. Robinson to Edward C. Barrett 1926
- Edward C. Barrett to Arthur H. Fleming 1926
- Henry M. Robinson to George E. Farrand undated
- Edward C. Barrett to Henry M. Robinson 1926
- Synopses of Trust Agreements and Annuity Agreements 1927
- Summaries of Agreements with Respect to Funds [1927?]
- George E. Farrand to Edward C. Barrett 1927
- Board of Trustees announcement 1927
- General Education Board to Robert A. Millikan 1927
- Robert A. Millikan to Allan C. Balch 1927
- Edward C. Barrett to Executive Council 1928
- William R. Smythe to Executive Council 1930
- Athenaeum: Constitution and By-Laws undated

Box 1, Folder 8

Administrative documents, folder 3

Scope and Content Note

- Robert R. Blacker to Institute 1929
- Edward C. Barrett to Allan C. Balch 1929
- Memorandum for Finance Committee 1930, 1934
- Board of Trustees minutes 1930
- Arthur H. Fleming to E. F. Duke 1931
- Henry M. Robinson to Edward C. Barrett 1931
- Crellin annuity 1931
- H. W. O'Melveny to Edward C. Barrett 1931
- Executive Council minutes 1931, 1934
- E. F. Duke to Finance Committee 1931
- Memorandum regarding Student Houses 1932
- R. L. Daugherty to Board of Trustees 1932
- Harvey S. Mudd to Robert A. Millikan 1932
- George Ellery Hale and others to Allan C. Balch 1933
- Edward C. Barrett to Trustees 1933
- Edward C. Barrett to Robert A. Millikan 1933
- William W. Clary to Edward C. Barrett 1934
- Harry Chandler to Edward C. Barrett 1933-1934
- Edward C. Barrett to Harry Chandler 1934
- Henry M. Robinson to George Ellery Hale 1934
- Frederic C. Walcott to Henry M. Robinson 1934
- Charles J. Dunn to William B. Munro 1943
- William B. Munro to Charles J. Dunn 1943

Box 1, Folder 9 **Report of the Chairman of the Executive Council (Robert A. Millikan) 1922**

Physical Description: 3 items.

Box 2, Folder 1 **Norman Bridge Laboratory**

Scope and Content Note

- BSS to Mr. Mayers 1920
- William C. Crowell to Board of Trustees 1920
- Arthur H. Fleming to Walter Lloyd Smith 1920
- George E. Hale to Arthur H. Fleming 1920
- Announcement of the dedication of the building 1922
- Expression of Appreciation to Norman Bridge 1922
- Expression of Appreciation to Mrs. Norman Bridge 1925
- Robert A. Millikan to Henry W. O'Melveny 1926
- Edward C. Barrett to Arthur H. Fleming 1932

Box 2, Folder 2 **Fleming Trust 1920, 1922-1923, 1935, undated**

Physical Description: 18 items.

Box 2, Folder 3 **Faculty**

Scope and Content Note

- Robert A. Millikan to J. P. Buwalda 1925
- Chester Stock to Robert A. Millikan 1925
- Robert A. Millikan to Chester Stock 1925
- Arthur A. Noyes to Edward C. Barrett 1928
- Clinton Judy to Edward C. Barrett 1929
- Thomas Hunt Morgan to Arthur A. Noyes 1930
- Royal Sorensen to Executive Council 1931
- Charles Palache to Ian Campbell 1934

Box 2, Folder 4 **Student Affairs**

Scope and Content Note

- Harvard University 1928
- Occidental College 1928
- Pomona College 1928
- Princeton University 1928
- University of Redlands 1928
- University of Southern California 1928
- Yale University 1928
- Tuition increase 1930
- Minutes of a Meeting of the House Presidents 1931
- Report of the Committee on Campus Life and Interests 1934
- Regulations in Regard to Fellowships and Graduate Scholarships 1934-1935

Box 2, Folder 5 **Miscellaneous 1915, 1918, 1949, undated**

Physical Description: 8 items.

Series 2. Correspondence

Box 2, Folder 6

George Ellery Hale

Scope and Content Note

- Edward C. Barrett to Hale 1920-1921
- Agence de Librairie et de Publications to Hale [1920?]
- Hale to Edward C. Barrett 1920-1921
- Robert A. Millikan to Hale 1920
- Hale to Arthur H. Fleming 1920-1921
- A. O. Leuschner to Hale 1920
- Monroe E. Deutsch to Hale 1920
- Hale to Arthur A. Noyes 1921
- Arthur H. Fleming to Hale 1921
- Arthur A. Noyes to Hale 1921
- Hale and Arthur A. Noyes to Edward C. Barrett 1921

Box 2, Folder 7

Arthur A. Noyes

Scope and Content Note

- Noyes to Edward C. Barrett 1929-1932, undated
- Edward C. Barrett to Noyes 1929, 1931-1932
- Linus Pauling to Edward C. Barrett 1929
- Noyes to Mrs. Edward C. Barrett 1930
- Noyes to Mrs. Herman E. Dolk 1932

Box 2, Folder 8

James A. B. Scherer, folder 1

Scope and Content Note

- Edward C. Barrett to Scherer 1911, 1917
- Arthur H. Fleming to Scherer 1911
- Henry M. Robinson to Scherer 1911, 1913
- Henry M. Robinson to Throop Polytechnic Institute 1912
- Scherer to Henry M. Robinson 1912-1913
- Nellie C. [Mrs. Robert R.] Blacker to Scherer 1917
- Scherer to Edward C. Barrett 1917
- Norman Bridge to Edward C. Barrett 1917
- Scherer to Seward C. Simons 1917

Box 2, Folder 9

James A. B. Scherer, folder 2

Scope and Content Note

- Edward C. Barrett to Scherer 1918
- Walter H. Adams to Scherer 1918
- Scherer to Edward C. Barrett 1918
- Scherer to Arthur H. Fleming 1918
- Clinton K. Judy to Scherer 1918
- Edward C. Barrett to Chief of Air Service 1918
- Edward C. Barrett to Arthur H. Fleming 1918
- Edward C. Barrett to Adjutant General, War Department 1918
- P. L. Campbell to Scherer 1918
- Edward C. Barrett to P. L. Campbell 1918
- George Ellery Hale to Scherer 1918
- Students to Executive Committee of the Faculty 1918
- Scherer to George Ellery Hale 1918
- Robert A. W. Bultmann to H. C. Van Buskirk 1918
- Joseph Maier and Frank Bridgeford to Frederick Beckman 1918
- Munson J. Dowd to Frederick Beckman 1918
- R. E. Hambrook to Frederick Beckman 1918
- Munson J. Dowd to Professor Thomas 1918
- R. I. Rees and others to Scherer 1918
- Edward C. Barrett to War Department Committee on Education and Special Training 1918
- Scherer [?] to Frederick Beckman 1918
- Executive Committee Meeting minutes 1918 Oct 28
- Inga Howard to Edward C. Barrett 1918

Box 2, Folder 10

James A. B. Scherer, folder 3

Scope and Content Note

- Inga Howard to Edward C. Barrett 1919
- Edward C. Barrett to Scherer 1919
- Inga Howard to Scherer undated
- Edward C. Barrett to James B. Pond 1919
- Earnest C. Watson to Scherer 1919
- Edward C. Barrett to Dr. Eytting 1919
- Glen Levin Swiggett to Scherer 1919

Box 2, Folder 11

Miscellaneous correspondence

Scope and Content Note

- Edward C. Barrett to Henry M. Robinson 1920
- M. H. Sherman to Harry Chandler 1920
- Harry Chandler to Arthur H. Fleming 1920
- Henry M. Robinson to Arthur H. Fleming 1921
- H. H. G. Nash to Edward C. Barrett 1939

Series 3. **Miscellaneous Papers**

Box 2, Folder 12 **Engineering and Science 1950 Jan**
Box 2, Folder 13 **Budget reports 1919-1924**
Box 2, Folder 14 **Endowment funds 1918-1948**
Box 2, Folder 15 **Papers of historical value various**